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OFFICIAL FIGURES.

The Annual Report of the Secretary of Agriculture

SHOWS CONDITION OF FARMERS

Of the United States has been misrepresented by the Political Demagogues, headed by the late Mr. Bryan—Facts About Mortgages and Rates of Interest. Great Increase of Exports of Farm Products—An Encouraging Outlook for the Future.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 22.—Secretary Morton, in his fourth annual report, just made public, shows that with \$250,000 which may be saved from the appropriations for the current fiscal year, there will have been covered back into the treasury since March 7, 1893, over \$2,000,000 out of a total appropriations of \$11,179,455.45.

That this great economy was effected without any loss of efficiency he attributes in a large degree to the improvement in the personnel of the force under civil service rules, which he declares to be "absolutely indispensable to the maintenance of an economic and efficient administration of the public service."

To complete "the already almost perfect system of civil service," in his department, the secretary recommends the appointment of a permanent director in charge of bureaus and scientific investigations. The chiefs of scientific bureaus and their assistants, he declares, are not adequately compensated and strongly recommends that the salaries of this class of employees be increased. The inspection of animals intended for food is treated of at length and stress is laid upon the increased efficiency of the work due to the extension of civil service rules, which has been very rapid in this service.

The total number of ante-mortem inspections of cattle, sheep, calves, and hogs, during the year was \$5,917,478, an increase of 25 per cent. The total number of abattoirs under inspection in 1895 was 102 in 26 cities; in 1892 there were but 23 in 12 cities.

For the sake of economy the exports of meat were inspected, pork to countries not in the United Kingdom have been greatly discouraged. The total amount thus inspected was in round numbers 23,000,000 pounds, of which 21,500,000 pounds went to countries requiring inspection.

Clearances were issued to 819 vessels carrying cattle and sheep. Of cattle, there were issued for export 477,530 and 42,692 inspected sheep were exported. The percentage of loss in transit was considerably less than ever before.

Other Branches.

Mr. Morton urges strongly that government inspection should be extended to all animals intended for human food, whether for consumption in the United States or abroad.

The cattle and meat trade of Great Britain, reviewed at length, shows live animals arriving in the United Kingdom during the first six months of 1896, the United States supplied 75 per cent of the cattle and 45 per cent of the sheep. The testimony of the department representatives abroad is that cattle from the United States arrive in English ports in excellent condition. The Glasgow market is especially commended to American shippers.

The report shows a steadily increasing demand in England for American horses. During the first nine months of the present year more of these animals were shipped to that country than for any previous year.

Reviewing the work of the weather bureau special stress is laid upon the value of the many timely storm warnings, which have been issued by the bureau, and have resulted in the protection from loss or damage of many millions of dollars worth of property.

By noting of the many lives saved from impending danger. An increase in the percentage of verifications is noted.

During the year the department issued 25 publications, mainly for gratulations distribution. The aggregate number of copies printed was 6,561,700. The publication work has grown enormously during the past few years and increased appropriations must be provided, but the secretary declares that neither the department of agriculture, nor the government itself can continue for the next five years to increase its publications for gratuitous distribution in the same ratio as for the last five years without disbursing millions of dollars.

He protests against the intrusion of the cost of printing into the current fiscal year of \$22,500, for printing horse books and cattle books to be given away by Congress.

The secretary again takes occasion to express his opposition to the gratuitous distribution of seeds and to express the hope that the practice will be discontinued.

The work of experiment stations is reviewed at some length. He opposes, for the present, the establishment of an agricultural experiment station in Alaska, but recommends an appropriation of \$5,000 for a preliminary investigation of the agricultural resources of the territory.

The secretary suggests some form of co-operation between the agricultural colleges and the civil service commission, with a view to certifying more readily persons adapted for employment in the scientific divisions of the department.

Condition of American Farmers.

The report concludes with a comprehensive review of the condition of American farmers.

Seventy-two per cent of the farms in the United States occupied by their owners are absolutely free from mortgages or other incumbrances. The secretary refutes the idea, prevailing that the farms of the west and south are more heavily burdened with mortgages than those of the east and northeast. States along the North Atlantic, he says, are quite heavily incumbered with farm mortgages, and New Jersey carries a debt of this kind greater in proportion to its farm valuations than any in the union. The frequent claim that the farmers are almost universally in debt, dependent and suffering, he declares to be without any foundation, a belittlement of agriculture, and an indignity to every intelligent and practical farmer. The farmers are not mendicants nor wards of the government, to be treated to annuities, but the representatives of the oldest, most honorable, most essential occupation of the human race, upon which all other vocations depend for a subsistence and prosperity.

"Legislation," he says, "can neither make nor plan. The intelligent, practical and successful farmer needs no aid from the government. The farmer is impractical, and indolent farmer does not serve none. It is not the business of the government to legislate in behalf of any class of citizens because they are engaged in any specific calling, no matter how essential the calling may be to the needs and comforts of civilization."

tion. Lawmakers cannot erase natural laws nor restrict nor efface the operation of economic laws. It is a heaping of things and the conditions of human life that legislators are not permitted to repeal, amend, or revise the laws of production and distribution."

Referring to the stress of competition which the American farmer is compelled to endure, Mr. Morton calls attention to the nearly 2,000,000 of farms of 60 acres each given away by the government under the homestead act of 1862, during the past thirty years, and to the amount donated under the timber culture law, equivalent to over 550,000 more farms of the same size. Lands long tiller and rendered partially unproductive, could not, of course, enhance value and sell in competition with virgin soil system by the government. No legislation relative to the public domain has been so directly inimical to the farmers who had bought and paid for the lands upon which they had lived and labored.

It was impossible for farmers in the old states to profitably sell their products in competition with those of the newer states grown upon lands which cost their owners nothing.

Rates of Interest Paid by Farmers.

Referring to the impression that greater rates of interest are charged for money loaned upon farms than for that loaned upon other kinds of real estate, Secretary Morton states that the rate of interest charged on mortgages upon residential property other than farms averages eighty-four hundredths of one per cent less than the rate of interest charged upon farm loans.

During the fiscal year just ended the country's production of American farms aggregated \$570,000,000, an increase of \$17,000,000 over the preceding year. In spite of this there was a falling off in the percentage of agricultural products exported to the total exports, but this was due to the unprecedented sale abroad of American manufactured goods. The largest market for our products is admitted to be the home market, but the export trade is the regulator, the balance wheel for domestic trade. It follows that the interest of the manufacturer as well as of the farmer is found in the most rapid possible increase of the export of farm products. General prosperity depends absolutely upon agricultural prosperity, and any commercial system which will increase with celerity, and extend agriculture and all interested in its extension. Political economy which best advances the interest of the agriculturist furnishes the best impetus to the manufacturer of the United States, for his best customers are farmers and those who depend directly for profit upon the prosperity of farmers.

Secretary Morton asks if a nation which, like the United States, possesses the greatest power and facilities for producing and manufacturing things which the world demands, is not destined to monopolize the markets of the globe. With the most favorable conditions for varied and successful agriculture and the lightest burden of national taxation, what country, he asks, can compete with this in developing the best results of human toil with a minimum of human effort. With our wonderful labor saving contrivances applied to nearly every avenue of production, and nearly every avenue of production, the wages paid in the United States, in the production of wheat and cotton, for instance, are 50 to 100 per cent higher than in the countries with which we compete, so the wages paid in manufactures from metals are from 25 to 100 per cent higher than the wages paid workers in the same industries by other nations.

Under the foregoing conditions about 1,700,000 laborers on American farms are constantly employed in developing agricultural products for exportation.

At the same time, with a rapidly increasing export of manufactured articles from the United States, the number of laborers engaged in mechanical occupations, who must depend for their steady employment upon the demand which the world makes for American goods is constantly increasing. "It is," he concludes, "probably quite safe to declare that at least two millions of American workmen on farms and in the employments subject almost entirely to employment based upon foreign demand for American commodities. And in this contest for feeding and furnishing mankind—notwithstanding the fierce competition which it meets all over the globe—American agriculture, manufacture and commerce are steadily gaining more trade, and thus, furnishing an enlarged wage fund, on a gold basis out of which some millions of American laborers and skilled artisans draw their yearly remuneration, and upon which they and their families largely depend for employment and comfort."

WEATHER BUREAU.

Prof. Willis L. Moore's Annual Report. Advance Made in the Signal Service Department.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 22.—Prof. Willis L. Moore, chief of the Weather Bureau, has submitted to the secretary of agriculture, his report of the operations of the bureau during the fiscal year of his administration.

Of the forecast and warnings, Professor Moore says, in part:

Timely warnings of all storms likely to cause injury to shipping were sent to all maritime stations and resulted in almost incalculable benefit. In the harbor of Buffalo, alone, during six of the most severe storms of the past winter, a total of over one hundred and fifty vessels, aggregating in value upwards \$17,000,000 having on board upwards 1,800 persons, were detained in port by reason of the weather bureau warnings.

The professor points out that as a result of the danger signals displayed at all points, in advance of the West India hurricanes on the Atlantic coast, no lives were lost and but little property destroyed, that no cold wave or frost of unusual intensity has occurred without forewarning and that while no disastrous floods have occurred during the year, warnings given by the bureau in cases of heavy rains and melting snows were the means of saving large amounts of property. The average percentage of verifications of the bureau's forecasts during the year was 82.4 per cent, an improvement of 2.4 over that of last year. Among the new features introduced perhaps the one most highly commended by all classes is the corn and wheat region service established in the principal corn and wheat producing states of the central valleys and in the west. The information obtained concerning rainfall and temperature is promptly bulletined and disseminated for the benefit of persons interested.

More prominent has been given to the subject of aerial investigations than to other experimental work. Concerted observations in co-operation with foreign countries have been made in a number of stations. From these it is hoped to gain information regarding the general circulation of the atmosphere particularly during the stormy weather.

Kite experiments are resumed. On observation at an altitude of 7,000 feet was obtained. Prof. Moore says that the use of kites is always limited by the condition of the winds. There appears to remain but one other means of exposing meteorological instruments at approximately fixed points in air, namely, by the use of devices sustained by the action of propellers which either lift the

apparatus directly, or give it a specially ascending or descending motion.

Many devices of this character have been proposed by ingenious inventors. It is a possibility that important meteorological stations of the future will be dual in as present at the surface of the earth. The other portion will be poised at a great height in mid air, riding at anchor to the base of station, as it were. Simultaneous observations from a system of widely distributed stations of this character would enable the future forecast official to map out the atmospheric condition, both horizontally and vertically, and arrive at a more exact knowledge of the temperature, pressure, etc.

The report says it is not believed that there has been an increase in either the frequency or severity of tornadoes. Unfortunately those of the present year have swept through populous sections of the country. Three hundred and six persons lost their lives in the storm of May 27 last. More than the aggregate loss by violent winds during the years 1891 and 1895.

During the three severe tropical storms that occurred during the present fall season and for which hurricane signals were issued by the bureau, about 2,000 vessels came into or remained in port on the eastern gulf and Atlantic coasts, during the periods for which the warnings were issued.

KENTUCKY SENATORSHIP.

An Embarrassing Situation for Governor Bradley, of that State.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Nov. 22.—Prominent politicians are visiting Governor Bradley with reference to calling an extra session of the legislature. The state affairs need legislation, but there is a division of opinion as to the effect of an extra session on the senatorship. If no extra session is held Governor Bradley will appoint a successor to Senator Blackburn March 4 to serve till the next legislature is elected.

As the governor is prominently mentioned for the senatorship himself, the situation is an embarrassing one to him. There are a half dozen other prominent Republican candidates and Senator Blackburn will continue to fight to the last, while the friends of Secretary Carlisle are watching the situation. It is the general opinion that there will be an extra session and that there will be another senatorial fight here this winter.

Blackburn Gives It Up.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Nov. 22.—The Commercial-Tribune's special from Lexington, Ky., says Senator Blackburn is there consulting with his friends and he has given up the senatorial contest and determined to make the contest for governor of Kentucky with a possibility of securing a legislature that would be more favorable to him. Senator Blackburn is confident he can secure the nomination for governor and that he can be elected. He stated that Senator Blackburn's present action in declining to contest for the senatorship is due to gold Democrats refusing longer to stand by him as the caucus nominee.

Montana's Vote.

BUTTE, Mont., Nov. 22.—Complete election county returns in the recent election give Bryan a total vote in the state of 43,680; McKinley 10,490. Majority for Bryan 33,190. The Palmer ticket did not appear on the ballot in Montana and the Levering vote has not been reported. McKinley carried Custer and Dawson counties, two out of twenty-two counties in the state.

A COMPLETE WRECK.

The Town which Suffered the Most From Floods in Washington.

SEATTLE, Wash., Nov. 22.—Probably the town in Skagit county to suffer most by the flood of the Skagit river was Hamilton. The town is a complete wreck. The big brick store building of Barker & Fontaine, is a heap of ruins and the goods are buried under the fall of the walls. Everything is in a horrible shape. The streets are washed out, sidewalks gone, and the town is filled with trees, stumps and rubbish. No lives were lost.

About ten years ago some of the lower part of the town and some of the people were prisoners up there until Sunday noon, when they were taken off in boats. The track of the Seattle & Northern railway between Wooley and Hamilton has been almost completely destroyed and it will probably be two weeks before the road is in good working condition again. The loss to up-river ranches will be heavy, as considerable stock was lost.

CLARKE AND BEVINS.

Refuse to Return to West Virginia Without Regulation Papers.

WILLIAMSON, W. Va., Nov. 22.—Detectives Clark and Bevins were expected here to-day to answer for the killing of Anderson and James Mount last week while the former were attempting to arrest Anderson Mount. Owing to the feeling against the officers by the friends of Mounts, neither of them would leave Pineville, Ky., and cross the state line. It was decided to secure requisition papers at Charleston to-morrow on the governor of Kentucky, when the officers will be brought here for a preliminary hearing.

WELL KNOWN ACTOR DEAD.

W. A. Mestayer, Actor and Playwright, Dies in New York.

NEW YORK, Nov. 22.—After several months' illness, W. A. Mestayer, the well-known actor, died last night of Bright's disease. Mr. Mestayer was a man widely respected by the theatrical profession of the United States. After several years' good work at the California theatre with the late John McCullough, he came to New York under an engagement with E. E. Rice and played under his management in all the principal burlesques produced by that manager for several years.

Mr. Mestayer wrote, in conjunction with James Barton Key, "The Tourists in a Pullman Car," which made him quite a fortune. This piece was followed by other works including "We, Us & Company," "Tobogganing," and "The Grab Bag."

About ten years ago Mr. Mestayer married Theresa Vaughn who has been fulfilling an engagement at the Boston Museum. She arrived in this city to-night. The funeral services will be held in "The Little Church Around the Corner," probably Tuesday.

COL. TENNY DEAD.

One of the Best Known Hotel Men in America Passes Away.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 22.—Col. Franklin Tenny, for nearly thirty-five years the proprietor of the National Hotel in this city, died to-day. He was eighty-nine years of age and was a native of Hudson, N. H. Very few citizens of Washington were better known among a large class of public men of the last half century than the deceased.

Another Famous Man Dead.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—Robert A. Whitehead, the proprietor of the "Old Curiosity Shop" store on D street, committed suicide to-day by blowing out his brains. His place of business was a veritable treasure house of relics, some of which were from revolutionary times.

AN AIR SHIP

Makes a Successful Trip of One Hundred and Thirty Miles.

SOME PEOPLE ARE SKEPTICAL.

But the Attorney for the Inventor Says It's "Straight Goods"—Reside Which Many People Will Swear They Saw It Pass Over the City of Sacramento. The Attorney Saw the Thing Start and Tells How Much It Cost.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 22.—The Chronicle prints a story which would indicate that the air ship in practical form is an established fact.

About 1 o'clock last Monday morning the inhabitants of Sacramento, who were astir at that hour, claim to have seen an air ship passing rapidly over the city. Some merely said they saw a bright light, while others went so far as to say they saw a cigar-shaped flying machine and heard human voices from it. The residents of Oakland also say they saw the same sight.

The story of the mysterious air ship has been told all over the state and has created considerable amusement, as it was generally believed to be a hoax. The Chronicle prints an interview with George D. Collins, a reputable lawyer of this city, who says that the air ship is a reality. Attorney Collins says:

"It is perfectly true that there is at last a successful air ship in existence. I am acting as attorney for the inventor. He is a very wealthy man who has been studying the subject of flying machines for fifteen years, and who came here seven years ago from the state of Maine in order to be able to perfect his ideas away from the eyes of other inventors. During the last five years he has spent at least \$100,000 on his work. He has not yet secured his patent, but his application is now in Washington."

"I saw the machine one night last week at the inventor's invitation. It is made of metal, is about one hundred and fifty feet long and is built to carry fifteen persons."

"It is built on the Aeroplane system and has two canvas wings eighteen feet wide and a rudder, shaped like a bird's tail. I saw the thing ascend about ninety feet under perfect control."

"The reports from Sacramento the other night were true. It was my client's air ship that the people saw. It started from Oroville, in Butte county, and flew sixty miles in a straight line directly over Sacramento. After running up and down once or twice over the capital, my friend came on a distance of another seventy miles and landed at a spot on the Oakland side of the bay, where the machine now lies, guarded by three men."

"In another sixty days several defects will be done away with, and it is then his intention to fly right over San Francisco. The inventor has forsaken the ideas of Maxim and Langley entirely in building the machine and has constructed it on an absolutely new theory."

"In spite of Mr. Collins' statement, there are many skeptics who say flatly they do not believe his story. It is almost incredible that an air ship 150 feet long could be secreted in any building near San Francisco without the fact being made public."

The mysterious lights seen over Sacramento, if any were seen, are thought to have been meteors.

CATHOLICS DISSATISFIED

With the Government's Settlement of the Manitoba School Question.

MONTREAL, Que., Nov. 22.—The terms of settlement of the Manitoba school question as agreed upon by the Dominion of Manitoba governments are far from giving satisfaction to the Catholics of Quebec. Archbishop Langevin, of Manitoba, has sounded the keynote of discord in an interview published here and the French papers of this and the French papers of this province have taken it up. Archbishop Langevin is reported as saying:

"Certainly settlement is not satisfactory and more it will be far satisfying Quebec." He laid special stress upon Quebec. At this juncture the archbishop paused a moment and shook his head. Continuing, he said: "How we have been sold, how Quebec has been betrayed; too bad, too bad, but I tell you, to President-elect William McKinley, which will ring throughout Canada and these men who to-day are triumphant will be cast down. The settlement is a farce. The fight has only begun."

La Leverit says: "The duty of this moment appears to us to be very clear. We must support our brothers with all our strength, for if we allow the Catholics of the little province of the west to be crushed we shall have our turn later on."

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

Rain Falls, but too Late to Do a Great Deal of Good.

BOMBAY, Nov. 22.—Rain has fallen in Rajputana and is also expected in Central India. It is believed that the distress from famine will diminish where it has rained, but will not be totally removed. A dispatch from Allahabad, India, on the breaking of the drought, says:

"The storm has caused a rainfall right through eastern Rajputana which has reached the western parts of the northwest provinces. On Friday a good rain had fallen at Meerut and a fair rain at Agra. This is of the highest value, as Agra was suffering severely from drought. There are signs that the rain will extend further."

"Here the clouds have been banked up for the last few days, but only a few drops have fallen, though there were showers on Saturday night further north."

"The following is an accurate view of the position in the northwest provinces and Oudh: The first area where there is the greatest failure of crops has 25,000 square miles with a population of 13,000,000. Here the famine may be acute. The second area where there is a severe failure covers 30,000 miles and the population is 14,000,000. The third area, where there is a considerable failure, has 25,000 square miles and a population of 12,500,000."

"The divisions which are worst off are Allahabad, Lucknow and Faizabad, with a portion of Agra not protected by irrigation. The balance of the provinces are those protected by canals, which do not depend so much upon the rice crop. Here there has been a little failure, though the distress is not so heavy as in the poorest classes of the Khalif."

"The crops in Meerut division are excellent and are probably the best on record."

"As for the prospects, an inch and a half of rain within the next fortnight would make the difficulties by one-half to three-fourths favorable. At the end of the year would relieve from four to eight per cent of the population. The government is preparing

for the worst. Should the drought continue until June, prices would rule enormously high, but the Lieutenant-governor does not apprehend a complete failure of supplies next summer as local stocks will be supplemented by imports.

A significant indication of the famine conditions is that in certain areas prices for fine and coarse grains are closely approximating. So far the relief organization is equal to all demands."

A STEAMER WRECKED.

Big South Pacific Collier Aground. Twenty-eight Lives in Peril.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 22.—The big Southern Pacific collier San Benito is reported wrecked near Point Arena, on the California coast. The San Benito was a four masted iron steam vessel of 4,650 tons. She was 350 feet long and was built in Glasgow, in 1884. For years she was used as a collier by the Southern Pacific to bring coal from Tacoma to this port. She was due here yesterday. According to a brief message received from Point Arena to-day, she went ashore near there last night in a heavy storm, and will be a total loss.

Another dispatch from Point Arena says the San Benito is ashore three miles from Point Arena, three miles from Brues Creek. She is on the rocks about an eighth of a mile from shore. Chief Engineer Woods and five men are on the steamer Point Arena and twenty-eight men are still on board the wreck. The life saving station sent its line gun and life boat to the scene, but it is thought the gun will not be so service as the ship will go far out. The San Benito was commanded by Captain Smith and carried a crew of forty men. The San Benito left Tacoma Wednesday with 44,000 tons of coal. This was 600 tons short of her usual winter cargo.

A later report gives the following fatalities:

Known: O. W. Scott, first assistant engineer. F. Condon, second engineer. M. Pendergast, fireman. John Sheridan, messenger. One seaman.

Thirteen saved so far. Captain Smith and twenty-five others are still in the rigging.

The vessel struck about 1 o'clock in the morning and an hour later broke just aft. Smoke stacks, masts were lowered but one capsized immediately with five men in it, four of whom were drowned. Another boat with four of the crew capsized nine times, losing two men. Three men, by heroic means, reached shore. Daylight found the rest of the crew clinging to the rigging. Such a heavy sea is running that it is impossible to render assistance.

The steamer Point Arena reached the scene at 11 o'clock this morning and sent out a boat and by great bravery and skilled seamanship, rescued seven men, in making a second trip the boat was almost swamped and was compelled to abandon all efforts on account of the great breakers washing over the wreck. A gale was washed overboard and reached shore almost dead. He was revived by a doctor on the beach.

At 4 o'clock this afternoon a sailor jumped overboard and attempted to swim ashore with a line. The shoulder straps of his life preserved broke and the man went down. Light house keeper Brown, and an Indian named Lazarus, William Comprey and Al Cunningham, managed to boat and made heroic efforts to connect the wreck with the shore with a line but were unsuccessful. The steamer Point Arena and Alcazar are off the wreck but can render no assistance until the sea calms. A passing steamer landed a gun at Point Arena this afternoon and the line will be shot to the wreck to-night. Both parts of the ship are fast in the sand fifty feet apart. The sailors claim the accident was an account of the fog horn not blowing, but the night was clear and the light could be seen many miles.

An Abandoned Bark.

LONDON, Nov. 22.—The British bark Strathmuir, from New York, October 26 for Londonderry, arrived in Lough Foyle to-day. Captain McDougall reports that in latitude 43:12 north and longitude 41:17 west he sighted the Norwegian bark Nordysset in a waterlogged condition and abandoned. The Nordysset, Captain Nielsen, sailed from Halifax October 26, for Londonderry.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

Mrs. McKinley's health continues to improve and the major is in the best of health and spirits.

Judge William H. Hillard, of North Stonington, Conn., will send one of the largest turkey dinners in that town, to President-elect William McKinley for his Thanksgiving dinner. One of the local writers will send a poem with the bird.

The Lee line steamer City of Osceola, Captain Henry Cooper, on her way from Ashport to Memphis, sank at Craig's Head Point, sixty miles above Memphis, at 7 o'clock last night. All of the passengers and crew were saved without difficulty.

The funeral of F. P. Arbuckle, the millionaire mine owner of Denver, who was found dead in New York, supposed to have been murdered, occurred yesterday. His wife was present and to the reporters denied the story that her husband had heart disease.

An unknown man and woman were found dead in their bed in a room at the Standard hotel, New York, having been suffocated by illuminating gas, which was flowing from an open and unlighted burner in the apartment. The police are still investigating, but they have found nothing tending to indicate murder or suicide.

Rev. Minot J. Savage was formally installed as associate to the Rev. Dr. Robert L. Collyer, pastor of the church of the Messiah, New York, last night, in the presence of a large number of the leading clergymen of the Unitarian church, and a congregation which more than taxed the capacity of the church. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hale, of Boston.

The Dietrich syndicate, of which E. C. Benedict, President Cleveland's close friend, is president, has just closed a deal by which it acquires possession of all the property of the Ohio and Indiana Natural Gas Company. The purchase includes the plants at Lima, Dayton, Piqua, Sidney and Wapakoneta, Ohio, and in many towns in Indiana, and several millions of dollars are involved.

Colonel Fred D. Grant paid a visit to Chairman Hanna yesterday, having stopped on his way home from St. Louis, where he attended the reunion of the army of the Tennessee. Mr. Hanna said there was no political significance in the visit. Colonel Grant will go to Canton to-day to pay his respects to President-elect McKinley.

Five children of Mr. and Mrs. Snyder, Neal, living near Hamilton, Mo., were burned to death Saturday night. The Neal dwelling was burned while the parents were attending a dance. When they reached the burning building the father saw his eleven-year-old child lying in the flames, in the front door, and his three-year-old brother in his arms. The father, in a vain effort to save the children, fell in a drunken stupor. The father fell in a drunken stupor, and has been a raving maniac ever since.

WEYLER PLEASD

With the Progress of His Campaign Against Maceo.

"JUST WAIT UNTIL CHRISTMAS"

He Says—By that Day He Expects the Desperate Blow will be Dealt to the Cuban Cause—Says Maceo is Hard to Draw into Battle—Eminent Insurgents on the Cuban Commander's Staff—Weyler will Remain in the Field.

HAVANA, Nov. 22.—The first definite pronouncement from Captain General Weyler since he has taken the field in person in Pinar del Rio, was secured by the correspondent of El Liberal, of Madrid, in an interview with the captain general at Jaca, near San Cristobal yesterday.

General Weyler asserted that he was highly pleased with the results of his campaign in Pinar del Rio so far. He announced that he expected to remain to conduct active operations in Pinar del Rio province for fifteen or twenty days longer, adding:

"Wait until Christmas. By that date we shall have dealt a mortal blow to the revolution."

When asked about the whereabouts of Antonio Maceo, General Weyler replied that he was at the wharf of the railway line and that he always avoided an engagement with the Spanish troops, even when he occupied an advantageous position.

In closing the interview General Weyler praised the deportment of the troops in his command. He also expressed delight with the success of Spain's internal loan.

Among the prominent insurgents on Maceo's staff are Salazar, of Santiago de Cuba, Pope, of Menzanillo and also, until he was killed in the recent engagement at Soron, a lawyer named Texas, of Holvin. The latter was acting chief of staff for insurgent general since Miro's illness.

Important news from the south coast of Pinar del Rio is now awaited in view of General Weyler's new movements in that region. Major Macias was acting as an escort for provisions for the fort on the heights of Toro in Pinar del Rio, when he was attacked during the march by forces of insurgents posted on surrounding heights. The insurgents were defeated after two hours' fighting with heavy loss. The troops lost a lieutenant and eight soldiers wounded.

Weyler's Instructions.

LONDON, Nov. 22.—The Madrid correspondent of the Standard says that the government has instructed Captain General Weyler that it is expedient for reasons of international and domestic politics that he should not return to Havana until he has achieved something decisive against Maceo in Pinar del Rio. This correspondent adds that the plan is to thereafter clear the provinces of Havana, Matanzas and Santa Clara during the winter sufficiently to protect the tobacco and the sugar crops and to make a final effort next winter to pacify the eastern provinces.

Destroy the Crops.

MADRID, Nov. 22.—According to advices from Havana, Captain General Weyler has occupied the insurgent positions in Pinar del Rio and has destroyed the crops in that province.

Resent the Insult.

NEW CASTLE, Del., Nov. 22.—It has been learned here that the Duke of